

## PARENTS GIVE HIGH MARKS TO NEW CHARTER SCHOOL



Students follow the instructions of their kindergarten teacher, Kayla Cha, as she teaches a lesson.

The new Roseville Community Charter School opened its doors to 112 kindergarteners and first graders on Aug. 22 and parents are already praising the school for its keen focus on promoting academic excellence.

"They are pushing reading a lot," said an impressed Latoya Williams, whose daughter, Zaniyah, is enrolled in a kindergarten class at the school.

Located in Newark's Roseville section in the former St. Rose of Lima School building, the school was started by the Newark Charter School Fund in cooperation with New Community Corporation. Plans call for a grade to be added each year, up to the fourth grade.

"I love it, the teachers, the whole team," said Isabel Santiago, whose son, Jaime Melendez, 6, is a proud first grader at the Roseville Community Charter School.

The school's motto is 'Work Harder, Get Smarter' and the goal is academic excellence for each student. Plans call for each classroom to have two educators in order to ensure each student receives the individual attention he or she deserves.

"They let you know on a daily basis how your child is doing," said Shayna Hunter, whose son, Kyle, 5, also attends the school. "He really enjoys it," she added.

Marshae Newkirk, a Fordham University graduate and former New York educator who is the school principal, said because many of the students attended preschool, the transition to kindergarten has not been difficult.

"It's not foreign to them, although there is not as much time for play," she said.

Desiree Vazquez, 5, exited school

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## FAITH

*"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."*

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

*"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"*

**Hebrews 11: 1**

*"Faith is putting all your eggs in God's basket, then counting your blessings before they hatch."*

**Ramona C. Carroll**

*"We are twice armed if we fight with faith."*

**Plato**

*"Faith is believing in something when common sense tells you not to."*

**From the movie,  
"Miracle on 34th Street."**

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## High Marks..Charter School, cont'd....

one recent afternoon talking happily about her day's activities.

"I was copying the letter M and the letter N," she said. "Then I colored the picture."

The school day runs from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. and children receive breakfast, lunch and a snack, with an emphasis placed on healthy eating.

"There is fresh fruit with every meal and we have slowly been introducing healthy lunch options like chicken wraps on pita bread," Newkirk said. "We realize the important role good nutrition plays when it comes to overall good health and learning."



Shaynna Hunter kissing her son, Kyle, goodbye on the first day of school, with brother Seth looking on.



Student volunteers from the Catholic Heart Workcamp painting a fence at St. Rose of Lima in Newark. From left are Drew LeBlanc, Jeff Bartz, Page Parvey and Caroline Paris. The volunteers spent an entire week at New Community Corporation under the direction of their supervisor, Caren Sempel. She said the volunteerism helped them "put their faith in action."

## NEW COMMUNITY PRESCHOOLERS WELCOME CHINESE VISITORS WITH NATIVE SONG

In China, the folk song "Mo Li Hua" is as familiar a tune as "Yankee Doodle Dandee" is in America. Students from the Community Hills Early Learning Center wanted to welcome nearly 100 Chinese teenagers who recently visited NCC for a cultural exchange in a special way.

Thankfully, a volunteer emerged to teach the youngsters this song---an individual from Taiwan who is a graduate student at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark.

LiHsin Shih, who likes to be called "Lindsay," taught the youngsters at Community Hills the melody and words to "Mo Li Hua," the title of which is translated to "Jasmine Flower" in English.

The day of the Aug. 9 performance, Shih returned to Community Hills and led the students in singing "Mo Li Hua" to the nearly 100 Chinese teenagers, who were visiting NCC as part of Fairleigh Dickinson University's Emerging Global Leaders Seminar. When the teenagers heard the familiar Chinese song, they immediately burst into applause, later showering the youngsters with hugs.



LiHsin Shih, a graduate student at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, holds the handmade Jasmine flower presented to her by students from the Community Hills Early Learning Center in appreciation for teaching them a Chinese song.



The Chinese teenagers who visited New Community for a cultural exchange thanked the students with hugs after being welcomed with a popular Chinese folk song.



## CHILD STROKE VICTIM REFUSES TO GIVE UP



Irlande Stavien working in the New Community Federal Credit Union office in Newark.

Irlande Stavien was just seven years old and sitting in her first grade class when her body suddenly began to feel weak and tired.

"I laid my head down on my desk. The teacher then asked everyone to line up, but I discovered I couldn't move. So I just laid there and started to cry. One of the students saw me and notified the teacher," she recalled.

Stavien, of Elizabeth, was unaware of it at the time, but she was having a stroke. Her teacher literally had to pick her up and carry her to the nurse's office.

"No one knew what was going on until I got to the hospital and they gave me a series of tests," she said.

Today, Stavien, 22, still has limitations. She can't walk long distances or lift heavy objects. But she recently had the pleasure of serving as an intern with a program designed to provide real work experience to people with disabilities. Sponsored by the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, the program is known as BEST (Building Economic Strength Together).

Stavien was assigned to the New Community Federal Credit Union in Newark for six weeks, where she learned customer service skills and tasks such as handling deposits, checks and money orders. New Community has hosted three interns since the start of the BEST pilot program in 2010.

"I loved it. It gave me a chance to go out there in the real world," said Stavien, who was paid a stipend through the program funded by the Kessler Foundation. "When you think of people with disabilities, you don't usually think of people who can work," she added.

Mulu Gebreyesus, manager of the New Community Federal Credit Union, called Stavien a good worker and praised

## GED SUCCESS STORY



Raslona Jackson dropped out of high school at the age of 16 after learning she was pregnant with her first child.

"I never went back to school because I stayed home to take care of my baby. A year later, I found myself pregnant with my daughter," she added.

Teenage motherhood certainly sidetracked her educational plans, but this 33-year-old single mother of three never laid aside the goal of receiving her high school diploma.

"I had been taking the (GED) test since 2003, but kept failing the math part," she explained.

In May, she turned to New Community Corporation for help. Through NCC's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program, Jackson was placed in a GED Prep class with instructors De'Borah Stewart and Perman Wilson.

Three months later, she confidently retook the GED test and passed. Jackson now plans to enroll in college.

the BEST program for the training opportunity it provides individuals with disabilities.

"It assists with their self-confidence and it also helps them interface with the public," she said. "It gives them the opportunity to give back to society."

Stavien was one of eight interns working at credit unions throughout New Jersey. To date, the program has had 38 interns that have worked with 18 different credit unions.

"I am so delighted that New Community FCU again participated in the BEST Internship program," said Pam Owens, director of education and training for the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions. "New Community FCU embodies the credit union philosophy of 'people helping people.'"



## RUBY HAYNES



The phrase, “through rain, sleet or snow” is usually associated with the mailman, but it is also one that comes to mind when one thinks of Ruby Haynes, a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at the New Community Extended Care Center in Newark.

Just shy of 78, she is the oldest employee working in the 180-bed nursing home, but her energy level, kind demeanor and strict work ethic have not wavered since she started back in May of 1989. In fact, Haynes is still working the same shift - 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. - on the very same floor.

“Ms. Ruby is very reliable, dedicated and committed to providing our residents with the very best care,” said Veronica Chima Anyanwu-Onwunaka, director of nursing. “She does everything with a smile and can get even the most challeng-

ing residents to cooperate with her. In inclement weather, she comes to work and is never out of uniform.”

A native of Guyana, South America, Haynes came to Newark in 1989 and through a friend, heard about the opening at the Extended Care Center. Her duties as a CNA have included bathing, dressing and grooming residents, feeding individuals unable to eat on their own and making sure the resident rooms on the third floor are neat and clean.

“She’s the closest thing to my momma since she has been gone,” said resident Reathel Williamson, who has been at the facility about a decade. “Being old and ill and sitting in a chair all day is not easy. You need someone to make you smile.”

A married mother of two grown children who enjoys crocheting and

cooking dishes like curried chicken and peas and rice, Haynes said what she enjoys most about her job is the direct contact she has with residents. While making her rounds, she gives out lots of hugs and tells the patients, “I love you.”

“I always put myself in the other person’s position and treat them the way I would want to be treated,” said Haynes, the daughter of a farmer and housewife who completed her nursing training at Public Hospital in Georgetown, Guyana. “I go in with a smile, asking how they feel and how they spent their day. When I go on vacation and come back, they tell me they missed me.”

Harriet Ware, who at 96 is one of the oldest residents at Extended Care, called Haynes a “beautiful person.”

“She’s so kind and so sweet, just a wonderful person,” Ware said of Haynes, whose husband, Ralph, is retired as a nursing assistant from *UMDNJ-University Hospital*.

Betty Lawson, administrator of the Extended Care Center, said Haynes has so much energy and goes about her duties in such a professional and positive manner, she is a true role model for other CNA’s to follow.

“Everyone just loves her,” she said.

Asked when she might be ready to turn in her badge, Haynes simply replied, “When I feel like it.” And that may not be anytime soon.

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